

The Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

June 24, 1988

Mr. Anthony R. Dolan  
Deputy Assistant to the President  
(Director of Speechwriting)  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Tony,

As an amateur, I think twice about sending a professional a speech text, but you might find the enclosed of some interest. I wrote this speech with a view to explaining to layman what is going on in the Soviet Union. I have delivered it to audiences in a variety of places with one or another titles but the text has remained essentially the same. I think you will find it is not exactly the prevailing view in Washington today. I would welcome any comments you might have.

In exchange, I would like to impose upon you to send me a copy of the text of the President's Guildhall speech in London. I saw a tape of it and found it deeply moving. You guys did yourselves proud on his trip generally but Guildhall was surely the high point.

We are overdue for lunch again. Give me a call.

Regards,

Robert M. Gates

Enclosure:  
As Stated

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THE GORBACHEV ERA: IMPLICATIONS FOR US STRATEGY  
BY ROBERT M. GATES  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

INTRODUCTION

THE SELECTION OF MIKHAIL GORBACHEV AS GENERAL SECRETARY IN THE SPRING OF 1985 SIGNALLED THE POLITBURO'S RECOGNITION THAT THE SOVIET UNION WAS IN DEEP TROUBLE -- ESPECIALLY ECONOMICALLY AND SPIRITUALLY -- TROUBLE THAT THEY RECOGNIZED WOULD SOON BEGIN TO HAVE REAL EFFECT ON MILITARY POWER AND THEIR POSITION IN THE WORLD. DESPITE ENORMOUS RAW ECONOMIC POWER AND RESOURCES, INCLUDING A \$2 TRILLION A YEAR GNP, THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP BY THE MID-1980S CONFRONTED A STEADILY WIDENING GAP WITH THE WEST AND JAPAN -- ECONOMICALLY, TECHNOLOGICALLY AND IN VIRTUALLY ALL AREAS OF THE QUALITY OF LIFE.

AS A RESULT OF THESE TRENDS, THE POLITBURO RECOGNIZED THAT THE SOVIET UNION COULD NO LONGER RISK THE SUSPENDED ANIMATION OF THE BREZHNEV YEARS, AND COALESCED AROUND AN IMAGINATIVE AND VIGOROUS LEADER WHOM THEY HOPED COULD REVITALIZE THE COUNTRY WITHOUT ALTERING THE BASIC STRUCTURE OF THE SOVIET STATE OR COMMUNITY PARTY.